

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

January/February 2011

PLS Shared Automation Project

As you may be aware, PLS has been working on a shared automation project with the goal of developing a consortium that would be available to all types of libraries, academic, public, school and special regardless of accreditation status. One of our primary goals was to find a vendor that offered the most flexibility with their software yet remain affordable to even our smallest, un-automated, unaccredited libraries. We believe we have found a vendor that is willing to work with every library type in and outside of our system. The PLS Shared Automation Committee has chosen COMPanion Corp., with their Alexandria Library Automation Software for our consortium.

PLS has currently completed a LSTA grant application with the Nebraska Library Commission. The goal for the grant is to assist libraries in our system with the startup costs and the first year Alexandria site license for each institution that has returned the Letter of Interest and Intent to Participate. Of course, there is no guarantee that we will be successful in securing the grant, but we intend to do everything we can to help those libraries that want to join the consortium find the funds they need to bring this project to fruition. If PLS is unsuccessful with the LSTA grant opportunity, the libraries will not be under any obligation to pursue library automation with the consortium or Alexandria. However, you may still join the shared automation project without financial assistance from PLS.

The LSTA grant requires a 10% cash match by the grant applicant so your facility will still have some upfront costs, but it will be greatly reduced if we are successful with our grant application.

Alexandria has indicated there will be an additional charge of \$295.00 per library for those that want to convert their current patron database, on-loan items and overdue list but this service is optional and completely elective.

Any extra items not mentioned above such as printers, bar code scanners, etc., would require an additional cost and will have to be negotiated between the individual library and COMPanion Corp.

If your facility does not require financial assistance from PLS or the Commission to participate, you may join the consortium at any time.

The Shared Automation Committee will meet after the new year to start working on policies and other consortium necessities.

Please feel free to contact Floyd, PLS Board President, with any questions or concerns at:
1602 Avenue A, Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 635-2400
<http://www.wnfrhc.org>

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News From Panhandle Libraries

Broadwater Public Library

By Naomi Loxterkamp — Director

Broadwater Library will start the New Year with a new board member. Our past board president, Bruce McKibben, was recently elected to the village council. Olga Bennett will be our new board member.

We've received some very nice year-end donations of books and movies. Our DVD's and VHS's are very popular check out items.

We have a few boxes of books left over from our summer book sale. Once in awhile, a patron asks to buy some of these books. If any other library would like to go through these boxes and take a few books, you're welcome to stop in and do so. As soon as possible, the remaining books will be donated to a worthwhile cause.

The Broadwater staff is looking forward to a New Year.

Chadron Public Library

By Rosella Tesch — Director

220 children enrolled in the Summer Reading Program. The program opened with a pick-nick on the library lawn and ended with a swimming pool party open to all that had completed their reading logs.

Chadron Public Library was involved in the celebration of Chadron 's 125th anniversary with a float, a Blue Grass concert sponsored by Chadron Public Library Foundation, and a display at the Bordeaux Art Society Center.

For the first time the Library offered an English as Second Language class.

For the first time a Winter Adult Reading Program was presented to adult patrons. 48 adults enrolled. The program included a Hot Cocoa Social, a Technology Petting Zoo, and a Silent Auction. The program started November 15, 2010 and will end January 15, 2011.

Two more computers for internet use were added to the fleet for a grand total of 15 computers for patrons use.

The Chadron Public Library Knitting Club met at the library the second Saturday of each month. The Club donated blankets and infant caps to Chadron and Pine Ridge hospitals October 9, 2010. Previously, the Club had given some of its work to local retirement facilities.

Homebound Services covered both retirement homes every week. Homebound patrons received weekly visits. Library material was delivered upon request and reading events were provided at every visit.

Author Paula Damon visited Chadron Public Library October 5, and talked about her work and blog.

Local author Poe Ballantine visited the Book Club and discussed his book "God Clobber Us All" with Book Club members. The members enjoyed talking with the author, and comparing their understanding of the story against the author ideas and point of view.

Under the America Reads program 4 college students have participated in the library working

Oshkosh Public Library

By Carol Kyser—Director

The Oshkosh Public Library is a much brighter place to be now. In November the library received additional lighting in its public access computer area and in its office area. Five new ceiling fixtures were installed. Also, a new photocell light was placed above the outside entrance of the library to improve the walkway lighting.



This program was funded by
The Friends of the Library
Group.



In conjunction with the Garden County Centennial the library had a “Team Read to 100” adult/teen reading program from June through November. Ten teams registered and the winning team read 248 titles. The top individual reader read 160 books.

These highlights , information on our book sale, a local author book signing, and “new reads” lists can be found on our website: <http://libraries.ne.gov/oshkosh>

News From Panhandle Libraries

Farm And Ranch Museum—High Plains Christmas

To help folks get into the holiday spirit the Farm And Ranch Museum held it's annual High Plains Christmas event on December 4, 2010.

It was a fun family day with something for all ages. The museum lobby was filled with crafters showing some unique Christmas gift items and various homemade crafts. The kids enjoyed making pinecone birdfeeders, making ornaments, and coloring holiday pictures. A fantastic lunch was served by Lila Brandt's cooks. The kids wrote letters to Santa that were then delivered by Pony Express to Santa's Village in downtown Gering..



Two different teams of horses were used to pull the hayrack. The ride gave you a tour of the museum grounds where you



could see farm equipment that was used in the past as well as the black smith shed. One ride usually was not enough.

Children enjoy looking in the museum at some of the old farm equipment that was used during harvest in the valley.



This is one event you don't want to miss.

SEE YOU HERE
NEXT YEAR!



You could warm up outside with a cup of cowboy coffee, hot chocolate, or by toasting marshmallows at the campfire.

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Gering Public Library — **Holiday Open House**

The Gering Public Library Staff and Friends of the Gering Library sponsored their Holiday Open House on Friday, December 10, 2010. There was a steady flow of patrons, business people, friends and family stopping by to enjoy the great food and holiday atmosphere. The afternoon was spent socializing and utilizing all the resources the library has to offer. The crowd increases from year to year and is a great opportunity for people from all walks of life to mingle and explore the library.



West Nebraska Family Research & History Center — **Welcome to Floyd's Christmas Open House**

Floyd Smith III, Director of the West Nebraska Family Research & History Center in Scottsbluff, held his annual Christmas Open House on Friday, December 17, 2010. Floyd made his famous chili which is well known by the patrons and a "must" addition to the already appetizing food tables. Approximately forty-seven people stopped by to say "Hi", enjoy the many spectacular food dishes, and socialize in the holiday setting. Some of the patrons enjoyed looking at old High School Annuals and tried to find family members. This center is full of information and a fun place to spend time. Stop by and Floyd and his staff will help you find the information your looking for.



Panhandle Library System
Board Minutes, Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Bluffs Business Center, Scottsbluff, NE

President Floyd Smith III called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and announced that the meeting would be conducted to follow the open meeting laws. Board members present: Rick Caudillo, Terry Christensen, Lori Hartman, Merrillene Wood, Floyd Smith III, Sara Brennemann, Dixie Riley, Sue Shaver, and Beth Trupp. Kendra Caskey was in Lincoln. Jeralyn Clapper was also present.

A new modified agenda was passed out to each board member to replace the one sent in the board packets. The only change was adding the NLC Report. The new agenda was approved.

Lori made a motion to add two corrections to the meeting minutes of September 14, 2010. The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is working on a new web page, it is not yet up and running. Also, the microfilms and equipment will be kept at the West Nebraska Family Research & History Center until Phase II of the library's renovation is completed. Motion by Beth to approve the corrected minutes. Motion was seconded by Dixie. None opposed so motion carried.

REPORTS:

Round Table: Terry reported the Alliance Elementary School has moved their library to where the Kindergarten classroom used to be. He has a para now. The library has added iPads and Leap pads. The middle school and high school are both doing well. The library has applied for a grant to be used to join Destiny, which is the same automation system as the Public Library.

Sue reported that the Hemingford Elementary Library finished their Fall Scholastic Book Fair. The library has also had a cut back on space. Circulation has increased in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. The down side is they don't see curiosity in high school students looking for non-fiction.

Rick reported the Banner County School just finished wrapping up its Scholastic Book Fair. Over \$917.00 was made and will be used to stock the library. The library is getting another computer cart. The laptops have been getting a substantial amount of use. Rick is now a library para. His supervisor has developed a plan that works very well in the library using shelf markers. If the students are behaving they get a blue marker. If they are being noisy or acting up they get a yellow marker. Next in line is the red marker which means no books. This plan has been very successful.

Merrillene reported that business at the Sidney- WNCC library has been going well. They have considered consolidating hours. The library's new director is looking at hiring a work study from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. to prevent the library from being unattended. The director is also looking for a system to charge patrons for printing. Merrillene attended a Murder Mystery Night at the Sidney Public Library. She won first place for solving the mystery and has become a member of the Sidney Public Library Friends Group. Over \$1000 was raised by this event. There was a brief discussion about doing a Mystery Night event to help raise money for the upcoming author tour. The State Advisory Board has sent out a survey to library directors to fill out. The survey reflects changes the libraries have had to make and will help in preparation for the future.

Approve PLS Audit Report: Merrillene made a motion to approve the PLS Audit Report for the fiscal year July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010. Beth seconded the motion. None opposed so motion carried.

PLS Committees: Annual Meeting - Beth reported that the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library has been selected to host the next Annual Meeting in July 2011. CE/TECH - Floyd reported that Alexandria has been chosen from the three vendors reviewed. The committee is ready to move forward with this project. Nominating - Dixie asked if Jeri could see what board seats will be coming open and when. The committee can then start searching for qualified candidates to fill the positions. Public Relations - Rick reported that his committee is leaning towards Diane DeGroat for the Author Tour next October. She has agreed to lower her fee to \$1200/day and is very excited about a return visit. Floyd suggested maybe we could extend her stay to 4 days instead of 3. There was a discussion on available funds and how much we may need to come up with. Grants, fund raisers, the Buckley Trust, and donations were some of the options mentioned. Scholarship - Merrillene reported there have been no scholarship applications submitted at this time.

Nebraska Library Commission: Rod Wagner was absent. A copy of the NLC Report was passed out to board members for their review.

PLS Financial Reports: The reports were included in the board packets. Floyd asked that Jeri find out from the auditor the correct line item to use when depositing the insurance check for the water damage claim in August. This topic will be added to the next meeting agenda.

OLD Business:

PLS Car Lease: Some material from Reganis Auto Center was received at the PLS office and passed on to Floyd. He reviewed it and will take the car to Reganis and see what their options are regarding purchasing the vehicle, renewing the lease, or looking at other vehicles. Sara Brennemann did some checking with a FSP program that may be able to help us find a vehicle at a lower cost. She passed around an application of eligibility for the board members to review. Floyd suggested we set up a committee and appoint Sara as the chairperson. The committee will submit the application, first to see if we qualify, and assist Sara in seeking out the options this program has to offer.

Rotating DVD Service Agreement: The new Rotating DVD Service Agreement was included in the board packet. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that a clause be added stating that any library that does not send their collection back by the due date will not be eligible to participate in the next year's rotation and will be billed for the missing collection. The board agreed to have the new clause added and that Jeri should email the revised agreement to each board member for their approval so the agreement could be sent out to all the Public libraries.

New Business:

Shared Automation Project: Floyd announced that Alexandria was by far the popular choice over the other two vendors. He explained the benefits of using Alexandria and the fees to get started. After a brief discussion, the board members agreed that he should call Mike (Alexandria's Rep.) and have him come out to help us get going. Lori made a motion to move ahead with the project. Sara seconded it. None opposed so the motion carried.

Approve Technology Plan: The Technology Plan for July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012 was included in the board packets. The technology plan is the first step in applying for E-rate. Merrillene made a motion to approve the plan. Motion seconded by Sue. None opposed so the motion carried.

Upcoming Events/Announcements: A list of upcoming events was included in the board packets. Beth wanted to add the Holiday Open House held at the Gering Public Library on December 10th from 3 to 6 p.m.

The topic was brought up about changing the board meeting to a different date. It was decided that at least two board members have to request a meeting be changed. If that occurs, Floyd will contact the board members and a new date will be selected. In case there is a blizzard or other weather conditions that prevent road travel, a quorum of six members must be present to hold a meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

The next PLS board meeting will be January 11, 2011 at the Bluffs Business Center, main floor conference room at 10:00 a.m.

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Secretary

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